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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with item 111 at its 32nd to 37th, 45th, 48th and 50th meetings, on 17, 20 to 22 and 30 November and on 4 and 5 December 1995. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (see A/C.3/50/SR.32-37, 45, 48 and 50).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on concrete measures taken to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict (A/50/672);

(b) Progress report by the Secretary-General on the study on the impact on children of armed conflict (A/50/537);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the provisional report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/50/456);

(d) Letter dated 25 April 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/163);

(e) Letter dated 8 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Delhi Declaration, issued at the eighth meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held at New Delhi from 2 to 4 May 1995 (A/50/215-S/1995/475);

(f) Letter dated 19 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Bariloche Declaration, issued by the participants in the fifth Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government held at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina (A/50/673).

4. At the 32nd meeting, on 17 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/50/SR.32).

5. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/50/SR.32).

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 20 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund made an introductory statement. The representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement on behalf of the expert appointed by the Secretary-General to undertake the study on the impact of armed conflict on children (see A/C.3/50/SR.33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.28

7. At the 45th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, 1/ Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The rights of the child" (A/C.3/50/L.28). Subsequently, Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

1/ On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

8. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Sweden orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "requires" was replaced by the word "states";

(b) In the seventeenth preambular paragraph, after the words "from an early age", the words "especially in poverty-stricken areas" were inserted;

(c) The eighteenth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Further alarmed, in particular, by the exploitation of child labour in its most extreme forms, including forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery",

was revised to read:

"Encouraged by measures taken by Governments to eradicate the economic exploitation of child labour";

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the number "180" was replaced by "181";

(e) In operative paragraph 22, the words "to make recommendations" were deleted.

9. At its 50th meeting, on 5 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.28, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31 and A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1

10. On 29 November, a draft resolution was submitted by Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe, entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/50/L.31), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 2/ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social

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2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, sect. 1.

Development 3/ and the Programme of Action 4/ of the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 5/ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, 6/ Agenda 21, 7/ the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s of the World Summit for Children, 8/ the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs adopted at the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990,

"Recalling also that discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child was identified as a critical area of concern in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the achievement of equality, development and peace for women, and that the advancement and empowerment of women throughout their life-cycle must begin with the girl child,

"Noting with appreciation that the World Summit on Children sensitized the entire world to the plight of children,

"Reaffirming the equal rights of men and women as enshrined in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 9/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 10/

"1. Urges all States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and to eliminate the violation of the human rights of all

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3/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

5/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

6/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

8/ See A/45/625, annex.

9/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

10/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

children, paying particular attention to the obstacles faced by the girl child;

"2. Also urges all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to set goals and to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the needs of children, in particular those of girls, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the goals, strategic objectives and actions contained in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

"3. Requests all States and international and non-governmental organizations to increase awareness of the potential of the girl child and to promote the participation of girls and young women on an equal basis and as partners with boys and young men in social, economic and political life and in the development of strategies and implementation of actions aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace;

"4. Calls upon Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, to take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child;

"5. Urges all States to eliminate all forms of violence against children, in particular the girl child;

"6. Calls upon States and international and non-governmental organizations to help mobilize the necessary financial resources and political support to help achieve goals, strategies and actions relating to the survival, development and protection of the girl child in all programmes for children;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the goals and actions relating to the girl child receive full attention in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women through the work of all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

"8. Also requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to urge all the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system focusing on the advancement of women to make commitments to goals and actions relating to the girl child in the revision and implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, 11/ as well as in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2002."

11/ E/1993/43, annex.

11. At the 48th meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Botswana, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1). Subsequently, Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

12. At its 50th meeting, on 5 December, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

13. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/209, 49/210, 49/211 and 49/212 of 23 December 1994,

Recalling also the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna on 25 June 1993, 12/ that measures be taken to achieve by 1995 universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the universal signing of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children 13/ and its Plan of Action, as well as their effective implementation,

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12/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

13/ See A/45/625, annex.

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/78 and 1995/79 of 8 March 1995, 14/

Convinced that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, as a standard-setting accomplishment of the United Nations in the field of human rights, makes a positive contribution to protecting the rights of children and ensuring their well-being,

Seriously concerned about those reservations to the Convention that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law, and recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action urges States to withdraw such reservations,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which states that national and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the defence and protection of children, in particular the girl child, abandoned children, street children, economically and sexually exploited children, including through child pornography, child prostitution or sale of organs, children victims of diseases including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, refugee and displaced children, children in detention, children in armed conflict, and children victims of famine and drought and other emergencies, and also requires measures against female infanticide and harmful child labour,

Reaffirming also that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Mindful of the important role of the United Nations and of the United Nations Children's Fund in promoting the well-being of children and their development,

Noting with appreciation the important work carried out by the United Nations, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the expert designated by the Secretary-General on the effect of armed conflict on children,

Recognizing also the valuable work done by relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Reaffirming that the rights of children require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned about the continuing deterioration in the situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts, and convinced that immediate action is called for,

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14/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2).

Convinced that children affected by armed conflicts require the special protection of the international community and that there is a need for all States to work towards the alleviation of their plight,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social and economic conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, intolerance, unemployment, rural-to-urban migration, illiteracy, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Deeply concerned by the persistence of the practice of the use of children for prostitution, sexual abuse and other activities, which may also often constitute exploitation of child labour,

Recognizing the existence of a market which encourages the increase of such criminal practices against children,

Concerned by the exploitation of child labour and that it prevents a large number of children from an early age, especially in poverty stricken areas, from receiving basic education and may unduly imperil their health and even their lives,

Encouraged by measures taken by Governments to eradicate the economic exploitation of child labour,

Expressing the will, at the national and international levels, to end the exploitation of child labour,

Determined to safeguard children's right to life, and recognizing the duty and responsibility of Governments to investigate all cases of offences against children, including killing and violence, and to punish offenders,

Deeply concerned about the growing number of street children world wide and the squalid conditions in which these children are often forced to live,

Welcoming the efforts made by some Governments to take effective action to address the question of street children,

Recognizing that legislation per se is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action, inter alia, in the fields of law enforcement and in the administration of justice, and in social, educational and public health programmes,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. Welcomes the unprecedented number of 181 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as a universal commitment to the rights of the child;

2. Urges all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching universal adherence by the end of 1995;

3. Emphasizes the importance of the full implementation by States parties of the provisions of the Convention;

4. Urges States parties to the Convention that have made reservations to review the compatibility of their reservations with article 51 of the Convention and other relevant rules of international law, with the aim of withdrawing them;

5. Calls upon States parties to the Convention to ensure that the education of the child shall be carried out in accordance with article 29 of the Convention and that the education be directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the Charter of the United Nations and for different cultures and to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of the sexes and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

6. Also calls upon States parties to the Convention, in accordance with their obligation under article 42, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to adults and children alike;

II

Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

7. Calls upon States fully to respect the dispositions contained in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, as well as those in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflicts special protection and treatment;

8. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on concrete measures taken to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict; 15/

9. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its eighth session and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict;

10. Expresses its support for the work of the expert to undertake a comprehensive study of the situation of children affected by armed conflict, with the mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993;

11. Urgently requests that appropriate measures be taken by Member States and United Nations agencies, within the scope of their respective mandates, to facilitate the extension of humanitarian assistance and relief and humanitarian

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15/ A/50/672.

access to children in situations of armed conflict and the immediate aftermath of such conflict;

12. Invites the working group on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflicts to pursue its mandate;

III

International measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

13. Welcomes the provisional report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; 16/

14. Expresses its support for the work of the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to examine all over the world the question of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

15. Notes the establishment by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/9 of 22 July 1994 of an open-ended working group responsible for elaborating, as a matter of priority and in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, guidelines for a possible draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for the prevention and eradication of those abnormal practices;

16. Requests that all States support efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of all those practices and consider contributing to the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

17. Welcomes the convening of the First World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to be held in Stockholm from 26 to 31 August 1996;

IV

Elimination of exploitation of child labour

18. Encourages Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to the elimination of exploitation of child labour, in particular those concerning the minimum age for employment, the abolition of forced labour and the prohibition of particularly hazardous work for children, and to implement them;

16/ A/50/456.

19. Calls upon Governments to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the protection of children from economic exploitation, in particular the protection from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

20. Urges Governments to take all necessary measures to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery;

21. Also requests that measures be taken by Governments, at the national and international levels, within the framework of multisectoral approaches, to end exploitation of child labour in line with the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development held at Copenhagen in March 1995 and the Fourth World Conference on Women held at Beijing in September 1995, and taking into account the results of other relevant United Nations conferences;

22. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant actors, to report on current initiatives and programmes of the United Nations and its affiliated agencies addressing the exploitation of child labour and on how to improve cooperation at the national and international levels in this field;

V

The plight of street children

23. Expresses grave concern at the continued growth in the number of incidents world wide and at reports of street children being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution;

24. Urges Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions to tackle the problems of street children and to take measures to restore their full participation in society and to provide, inter alia, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education;

25. Strongly urges all Governments to guarantee the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to life, and to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of street children and to combat torture and violence against them;

26. Emphasizes that strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments constitutes a significant step towards solving the problems of street children, and recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty-monitoring bodies give attention to this growing problem when examining reports from States parties;

27. Calls upon the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of

street children, and encourages States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to bear this problem in mind and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving the situation of street children, in accordance with article 45 of the Convention;

VI

28. Invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund and relevant mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with one another to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of children living in exceptionally difficult conditions by, among other measures, initiating and supporting development projects that can have a positive impact on the situation of those children;

29. Requests the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

30. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the rights of the child to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the findings of the expert on the effect of armed conflicts on children; and the problems of exploitation of child labour, its causes and consequences, in accordance with paragraph 22 above;

31. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session under the item entitled "The rights of the child".

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 17/ the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development 18/ and the Programme of Action 19/ of the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on

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17/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

18/ A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

19/ Ibid., annex II.

Population and Development, 20/ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, 21/ Agenda 21, 22/ the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s of the World Summit for Children, 23/ the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs adopted at the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs,

Recalling also that discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child was identified as a critical area of concern in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the achievement of equality, development and peace for women, and that the advancement and empowerment of women throughout their life-cycle must begin with the girl child,

Noting with appreciation that the World Summit for Children sensitized the entire world to the plight of children,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 24/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 25/

1. Urges all States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child and to eliminate the violation of the human rights of all children, paying particular attention to the obstacles faced by the girl child;

2. Also urges all States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively to set goals and to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the needs of children, in particular those of girls, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the goals, strategic objectives and actions contained in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

20/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

21/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

22/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

23/ See A/45/625, annex.

24/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

25/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

3. Requests all States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to increase awareness of the potential of the girl child and to promote the participation of girls and young women on an equal basis and as partners with boys and young men in social, economic and political life and in the development of strategies and implementation of actions aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace;

4. Calls upon Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, to take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child;

5. Urges all States to eliminate all forms of violence against children, in particular the girl child;

6. Calls upon States, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to help mobilize the necessary financial resources and political support to help achieve goals, strategies and actions relating to the survival, development and protection of the girl child in all programmes for children;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the goals and actions relating to the girl child receive full attention in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women through the work of all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to urge all the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system focusing on the advancement of women to make commitments to goals and actions relating to the girl child in the revision and implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001, 26/ as well as in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2002.

26/ E/1993/43, annex.

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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with item 110, Promotion and protection of the rights of children, at its 32nd to 37th, 45th and 50th meetings, on 17, 20 to 22 and 30 November and 5 December 1995. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/50/SR.32-37, 45 and 50).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Final report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive programme of action for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/50/511);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made at the national, regional and international levels in accomplishing the objectives contained in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 (A/50/565);

(c) Letter dated 19 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bariloche Declaration, adopted by the fifth Ibero-American Conference of

Heads of State and Government, held at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on 16 and 17 October 1995 (A/50/673).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.29

4. At the 45th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Australia introduced, on behalf of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Norway, a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations" (A/C.3/50/L.29). Subsequently, Bhutan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Peru and Solomon Islands joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

5. At its 50th meeting, on 5 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.29 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.30

6. At the 45th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Australia, on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Guyana, Iceland, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People" (A/C.3/50/L.30). Subsequently, Bhutan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Estonia, the Philippines and Solomon Islands joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Australia revised it as follows:

(a) In paragraph 4 of the annex, the word "national" was replaced by the word "political";

(b) In paragraph 50 of the annex, the word "adequate" was replaced by the word "appropriate".

8. At the 50th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Australia further revised the draft resolution as follows: in paragraph 53 of the annex, the words "when appropriate" were inserted after the words "adoption of new laws".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.30, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985 establishing the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995, 1/ as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/32 of 25 July 1995, which authorized the establishment of an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration, considering the draft "United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples" annexed to resolution 1994/45 of 26 August 1994 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 2/ for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,

Taking note also of the provisions in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32 regarding the participation of organizations of indigenous people in the open-ended inter-sessional working group,

Emphasizing the importance and special nature of the draft declaration as a standard-setting exercise specifically for indigenous people,

Recognizing the desirability of assisting organizations of indigenous people to participate in the open-ended inter-sessional working group,

1. Decides that the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/32, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 1995, as well as in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States and to invite them to consider contributing to the Voluntary Fund.

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ See E/CN.4/1995/2, chap. II, sect. A.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling its resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993 and 49/214 of 23 December 1994 on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/28 of 3 March 1995, 3/

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health, and that the theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action",

Recognizing the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Decade, the need for adequate financial support from the international community, including support from within the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

Recalling its invitation to organizations of indigenous people and other non-governmental organizations concerned to consider the contributions they can make to the success of the Decade, with a view to presenting them to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1992/255 of 20 July 1992, in which the Council requested United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to ensure that all technical assistance financed or provided by them was compatible with international instruments and standards, and encouraged efforts to promote coordination in this field and greater participation of indigenous people in the planning and implementation of projects affecting them,

Mindful of the relevant recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit on Social Development, and of the

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3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, 4/

Recognizing the value and diversity of the cultures and forms of social organization of indigenous people, and convinced that the development of indigenous people within their countries will contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancement of all the countries of the world,

1. Takes note of the final report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive programme of action for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the annexes to that report; 5/

2. Decides to adopt the programme of activities for the Decade contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. Also decides that the programme of activities for the Decade may be reviewed and updated throughout the Decade and that at the mid-point of the Decade the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should review the results of the activities to identify obstacles to achievement of the goals of the Decade and to recommend solutions for overcoming those obstacles;

4. Affirms as a major objective of the Decade the adoption by the General Assembly of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people;

5. Welcomes the establishment of an open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration, considering the draft contained in the annex to resolution 1994/45 of 26 August 1994 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, entitled "Draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples", for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly within the Decade;

6. Also welcomes the decisions of the Economic and Social Council to approve the participation of some organizations of indigenous people in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group, and encourages the continuing cooperation of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in processing further applications as a matter of priority in accord with the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council;

7. Recognizes among the important objectives of the Decade the consideration of the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations, as recommended in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at

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4/ Resolution 50/6.

5/ A/50/511.

Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, 6/ and welcomes the report of the workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people held at Copenhagen from 26 to 28 June 1995 7/ and the ongoing dialogue on this subject;

8. Recommends that the Secretary-General, drawing on the expertise of the Commission on Human Rights as well as the Commission for Sustainable Development and other relevant bodies, undertake a review, in close consultation with Governments and taking into account the views of indigenous people, of the existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous people, and report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

9. Also recommends that the Commission on Human Rights, drawing on the results of the review and the Copenhagen workshop, consider the convening of a second workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people with the participation of independent experts as well as representatives of Governments, organizations of indigenous people and other non-governmental organizations concerned and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies;

10. Recognizes the importance of strengthening the human and institutional capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems and, for these purposes, recommends that the United Nations University consider the possibility of sponsoring, in each region, one or more institutions of higher education as centres of excellence and the diffusion of expertise, and invites the Commission on Human Rights to recommend appropriate means of implementation;

11. Recommends that special attention be given to improving the extent and effectiveness of the participation of indigenous people in planning and implementing the activities for the Decade, including through the recruitment, where appropriate, by relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies of staff from among indigenous nationals of Member States, consistent with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and within existing resources and staff levels;

12. Recommends that the Secretary-General:

(a) Request United Nations representatives in countries where there are indigenous people to promote, through the appropriate channels, greater participation of indigenous people in the planning and implementation of projects affecting them;

(b) Ensure coordinated follow-up to the recommendations concerning indigenous people of relevant world conferences, namely the World Conference on Human Rights, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the

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6/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

7/ E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7 and Add.1-3.

International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) Urge relevant United Nations conferences to promote and facilitate to the extent possible and as appropriate the effective input of the views of indigenous people;

(d) Ensure that information about the programme of activities for the Decade, and opportunities for indigenous people to participate in those activities, is disseminated in all countries and to the greatest possible extent in indigenous languages, to be financed from within existing budgetary resources;

(e) Report on progress made at the national, regional and international levels in accomplishing these objectives to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

13. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote the objectives of the Decade, taking into account the special concerns of indigenous people, in the fulfilment of his functions;

14. Requests the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, in his capacity as Coordinator of the Decade, bearing in mind the contribution that indigenous people have the capacity to make, to establish, within existing resources, a unit within the Centre for Human Rights, including indigenous persons, to support its activities related to indigenous people, in particular to plan, coordinate and implement activities for the Decade;

15. Invites the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to consider the appointment of a fund-raiser who could develop new sources of funding for the Decade;

16. Requests the Administrative Committee on Coordination, through its inter-agency process, to consult and coordinate on the Decade, with a view to assisting the Coordinator of the Decade to fulfil his function, and to report on activities of the United Nations system in relation to the Decade to the General Assembly in each year of the Decade;

17. Invites the United Nations financial and development institutions, operational programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with the existing procedures of their governing bodies:

(a) To give increased priority and resources to improving the conditions of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those people in developing countries, including by the preparation of specific programmes of action for the implementation of the goals of the Decade, within their areas of competence;

(b) To launch special projects, through appropriate channels and in collaboration with indigenous people, for strengthening their community-level initiatives, and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise among indigenous people and other relevant experts;

(c) To designate focal points for coordination with the Centre for Human Rights of activities related to the Decade;

18. Emphasizes the important role of international cooperation in promoting the goals and activities of the Decade and the rights, well-being and sustainable development of indigenous people;

19. Also emphasizes the importance of action at the national level to the implementation of the goals and activities of the Decade;

20. Encourages Governments to support the Decade by:

(a) Contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Decade;

(b) Preparing relevant programmes, plans and reports in relation to the Decade, in consultation with indigenous people;

(c) Seeking means, in consultation with indigenous people, of giving indigenous people greater responsibility for their own affairs and an effective voice in decisions on matters which affect them;

(d) Establishing national committees or other mechanisms involving indigenous people to ensure that the objectives and activities of the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full partnership with indigenous people;

21. Also encourages Governments to consider contributing, as appropriate, to the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, in support of the achievement of the goals of the Decade;

22. Appeals to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the Decade by identifying resources for activities designed to implement the goals of the Decade, in cooperation with indigenous people;

23. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

ANNEX

Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

A. Objectives

1. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, the main objective of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, health, culture and education.

2. The specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international and national agencies, as well as communities and private enterprises, should devote special attention to development activities of benefit to indigenous communities.

3. A major objective of the Decade is education of indigenous and non-indigenous societies concerning the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people. In particular, efforts should be made to cooperate with the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.

4. An objective of the Decade is the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous people, and their empowerment to make choices that enable them to retain their cultural identity while participating in political, economic and social life, with full respect for their cultural values, languages, traditions and forms of social organization.

5. An objective of the Decade is to further the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to indigenous people of all high-level international conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, in particular its recommendation that consideration be given to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system, the United Nations Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development as well as all future high-level meetings.

6. An objective of the Decade is the adoption of the draft "United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples" and the further development of international standards as well as national legislation for the protection and promotion of the human rights of indigenous people, including effective means of monitoring and guaranteeing those rights.

7. The objectives of the Decade should be assessed by quantifiable outcomes that will improve the lives of indigenous people and that can be evaluated halfway through the Decade and at its end.

B. Activities to be undertaken by the major actors

1. United Nations observances

8. A formal observance each year on the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, in New York, Geneva and other offices of the United Nations.

9. Official observance of the Decade as part of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and other international conferences related to the aims and themes of the Decade.

10. Issuance of a special series of stamps by the United Nations Postal Administration highlighting the goals and themes of the Decade.

2. Activities of the Coordinator and the Centre for Human Rights

11. Establish, as a matter of urgency, an adequately staffed and resourced indigenous people's unit.

12. Request Governments to second qualified indigenous people, in consultation with interested national indigenous organizations, to assist in the administration of the Decade.

13. Create a fellowship programme, in collaboration with the Advisory Services of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and Governments, to assist indigenous people wishing to gain experience in the different branches of the Centre, and in other parts of the United Nations system. Such fellowships might be available for indigenous research and other similar activities.

14. Open a roster of indigenous experts in various fields who might be available to assist United Nations agencies, in collaboration with Governments as appropriate, as partners or consultants.

15. Create an advisory group of persons with relevant knowledge of indigenous issues, acting in their personal capacity, to advise the Coordinator for the Decade and United Nations organizations, at their request. The members of this advisory group could include eminent indigenous persons, governmental representatives, independent experts and officials of the specialized agencies.

16. Consider the need to hold coordination meetings of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and indigenous and non-governmental organizations, as necessary, to consider, examine and evaluate Decade activities and to develop an integrated, action-oriented strategy to advance the interests of indigenous people. The Economic and Social Council should hold mid-term and end-term reviews of the Decade in accordance with its resolution 1988/63 of 27 July 1988. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations should review international activities undertaken during the Decade and receive information from Governments on the implementation of the goals of the Decade in their respective countries.

17. Compile, on the basis of communications of the focal points in the United Nations system, a regular news-sheet containing information about meetings of interest, major or innovatory projects, new sources of funding, policy developments and other news to be widely distributed.

18. Encourage the development of partnership projects in association with Governments to address specific regional or thematic issues bringing together Governments, indigenous people and appropriate United Nations agencies.

19. Establish an information programme linking the Coordinator to focal points of the United Nations system, national committees for the Decade and, through appropriate channels, indigenous networks; also develop a database of indigenous organizations and other relevant information, in cooperation with indigenous people, Governments, academic institutions and other relevant bodies.

20. Organize meetings on relevant themes of concern to indigenous people with indigenous participation.

21. Launch a series of publications on indigenous issues to inform policy makers, opinion-formers, students and other interested people.

22. Develop, in collaboration with Governments, training programmes on human rights for indigenous people, including the preparation of relevant training materials, when possible in indigenous languages.

23. Establish a board of trustees or advisory group, including indigenous people, to assist the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade.

24. Encourage the development of projects and programmes, in collaboration with Governments, and taking into account the views of indigenous people and the appropriate United Nations agencies, for support by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

25. Ensure, in coordination with Governments and indigenous organizations, the necessary measures to guarantee financing of the objectives of the Decade.

3. United Nations public information activities

26. Produce and disseminate a series of posters on the Decade using designs by indigenous artists.

27. Organize a lecture series at United Nations information centres and campuses linked to the United Nations University, using indigenous speakers.

28. Publish in indigenous languages the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights conventions and, upon its adoption, the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people. Consider the use of audiovisual material for this purpose. Consider also the involvement of indigenous experts and their own information networks to disseminate information about the Decade.

29. Prepare, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, information about indigenous people for distribution to the general public.

4. Operational activities of the United Nations system

30. Establish focal points for indigenous issues in all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system.

31. Adopt programmes of action for the Decade in the governing bodies of specialized agencies of the United Nations system in their own fields of competence, in close cooperation with indigenous people.

32. Urge Governments to ensure that the programmes and budgets of relevant intergovernmental organizations give priority and devote sufficient resources for furthering the aims of the Decade, and request that regular reports on the action taken be submitted to the governing body or executive council of each organization.

33. Prepare, publish and disseminate a manual containing practical information for indigenous people on the operations and procedures of United Nations agencies.

34. Develop research on the socio-economic conditions of indigenous people, in collaboration with indigenous organizations and other appropriate partners, with a view to publishing regular reports in order to contribute to the solution of problems faced by indigenous people, taking into account paragraph 6.26 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. 8/

35. Encourage Governments to establish appropriate mechanisms and practices to ensure the participation of indigenous people in the design and implementation of national and regional programmes of concern to them.

36. Hold regular inter-agency consultations, in collaboration with Governments and indigenous people, to exchange views and develop strategies on the programme of action for the Decade.

37. Hold consultations with Governments to examine, with national committees and development agencies, possibilities of cooperation in the activities of the Decade.

38. Develop training materials for indigenous people on human rights, including the translation of the main international instruments into different indigenous languages, and give them wide distribution. Consider the possibility of using radio programmes in order to gain access to indigenous communities not having written languages.

39. Prepare a database on national legislation on matters of particular relevance to indigenous people.

40. Hold consultations of all interested parties on the themes of human rights, development, the environment, health and education, and culture, with a view to elaborating programmes in these areas.

5. Activities of regional organizations

41. Implement existing and develop new regional programmes of action to promote and support the objectives of the Decade.

8/ A/CONF.171/13, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

42. Hold regional meetings on indigenous issues with existing regional organizations with a view to strengthening coordination, taking advantage of the machinery of the United Nations system and promoting the direct and active participation of indigenous people of the different regions in collaboration with Governments. The Working Group on Indigenous Populations could consider the possibility of holding its sessions in conjunction with these meetings.

43. Develop training courses and technical assistance programmes for indigenous people in areas such as project design and management, environment, health and education, and promote the exchange of skills and experiences of indigenous people from different regions.

44. Make funds available at the regional level to activities benefiting indigenous people.

45. Encourage regional organizations to draw up regional instruments for the promotion and protection of indigenous people in the framework of their own structures, and promote existing regional instruments.

6. Activities of Member States

46. Establish national committees for the Decade or similar mechanisms, to include indigenous people, all relevant departments and other interested parties duly convened by Governments, to mobilize public support for the various activities connected with the Decade.

47. Intensify coordination and communication at the national level between relevant ministries, agencies and regional and local authorities by establishing focal points or other mechanisms for coordination and dissemination of information.

48. Use part of the resources of existing programmes and of international assistance for activities of direct benefit to indigenous people and, where possible, provide additional funds for specific activities.

49. Develop, in collaboration with indigenous communities, national plans for the Decade, including main objectives and targets, fixing quantitative outcomes and taking into account the need for resources and possible sources of financing.

50. Provide appropriate resources for indigenous institutions, organizations and communities to develop their own plans and actions according to their own priorities.

51. Adopt measures, in cooperation with indigenous people, to increase knowledge, starting at the elementary-school level and in accord with the age and development of schoolchildren, concerning the history, traditions, culture and rights of indigenous people, with special emphasis on the education of teachers at all levels, and adopt measures to restore indigenous place names.

52. Consider ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organization Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and other international and regional instruments in close consultation with the indigenous organizations of each country.

53. Recognize the existence, identity and rights of indigenous people through constitutional reforms or the adoption of new laws, when appropriate, to improve their legal status and guarantee their economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights.

54. Implement chapter 26 of Agenda 21, 9/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 10/ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 6/ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 8/ the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 11/ as well as the relevant provisions of future high-level conferences.

7. Activities of organizations of indigenous people

55. Establish an information network which can be linked to the Coordinator and facilitate communications between the United Nations system, relevant governmental departments and indigenous communities.

56. Indigenous organizations and international indigenous networks should develop information for local communities concerning the goals of the Decade and the activities of the United Nations.

57. Establish and support indigenous schools and university-level institutions and collaborate with the relevant United Nations agencies; participate in the revision of school texts and the contents of programmes of study in order to eliminate discriminatory content and promote the development of indigenous cultures and, where appropriate, in indigenous languages and scripts; develop indigenous curricula for schools and research institutions.

58. Create documentation centres, archives and in situ museums concerning indigenous people, their cultures, laws, beliefs and values, with material that could be used to inform and educate non-indigenous people on these matters.

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

10/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

11/ A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

Indigenous people should participate on a preferential basis in the administration of these centres.

59. Establish and promote networks of indigenous journalists and launch indigenous periodicals at the regional and international levels.

60. Indigenous people may transmit to Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies and regional organizations their views on the programmes concerning their priority rights.

8. Activities of non-governmental organizations and other interested parties, including education establishments, the media and business

61. Cooperate with indigenous organizations, communities and people in the planning of activities for the Decade.

62. Non-governmental organizations working with indigenous people should involve indigenous people in their activities.

63. Create radio and television centres in indigenous regions when appropriate and in accordance with national legislation to provide information on the problems and proposals of indigenous people and to improve communications between indigenous communities.

64. Promote indigenous cultures with due respect for intellectual property rights through the publication of books, the production of compact discs, and the organization of various artistic and cultural events which enhance knowledge of and serve to develop indigenous cultures and establish indigenous cultural and documentation centres.

65. Involve different social and cultural groups in the activities planned for the Decade.